



January 9, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft  
U.S. Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft,

I am writing to express my support for the Microsoft the settlement. I feel strongly that any American business ought to have the right to release to its competitors as much or as little of its proprietary trade secrets as it feels appropriate, rather than to have our government dictate disclosure through the courts.

I certainly feel that Microsoft should have done a better job with both industry and government relations regarding such disclosures. Indeed, failure to release "source code" appropriately would be a strategic mistake for Microsoft. Our industry has grown on cooperation and sharing of innovations. However, our industry's health also depends on the safeguarding of intellectual property. As such, the final decision regarding release of "source code" to competitors should have Microsoft's, and not that of a federal judge.

I realize that this is only one of many issues in this case, but this issue is the one that has me most concerned because of the potential impact on the efficacy of intellectual property rights. I am therefore pleased that this settlement has been reached, and that Microsoft was not forced into any involuntary disclosure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tim Reynolds', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Timothy Reynolds  
President